

A New Look for Georgia Law

Enduring a summer of noise and dust was well worth the trouble as the School of Law is now reaping the benefits of five fully remodeled classrooms, a renovated reading room in the Alexander Campbell King Law Library and the installation of many high technology elements. Among these high-tech items are: multi-media instructional podiums in all classrooms, power access at every seat in the new classrooms, wireless Internet access throughout the law school's campus, and an online catalog program and state-of-the-art security system for the library. Another plus is the remodeled classrooms are more wheelchair friendly. Some cosmetic changes are still being implemented but it is anticipated that all work will be completed by the end of the spring semester.

These renovations were courtesy of a \$3.2 million allocation in the state's 2001 fiscal budget and the project was overseen by the Office of University Architects for Facilities Planning.

The next time you are on campus, we encourage you to stop by and tour the school's upgraded facilities.

The old classroom F. ▲

Georgia Law's auditorium is no longer. This room was reconfigured into two 110-seat classrooms, a size that will enable the rooms to be used on a regular basis for law school classes. These new rooms still feature the auditorium's beautiful mahogany panels (refinished, of course) and are fitted with special boards to enhance the acoustics of the space.

▼ The school's old auditorium.



This is what the new multi-media instructional podiums look like. Each houses a networked computer, VCR and cable TV outlet and links to an overhead projector and screen. ►



▲ The library's main reading room before renovation. For nostalgia, if you would like to own one of the original 10' x 4' wooden tables or chairs crafted in 1967, they are available by calling the Office of Development at (706) 542-7639 or by e-mailing lawgifts@uga.edu.



◀ Replacing the auditorium, classrooms A and B were first used this fall to host the "Problem in Discovery and Professionalism" conference. This annual legal ethics and professionalism conference is funded by a discovery violation settlement and is hosted by the four ABA-accredited Georgia law schools on a rotational basis.

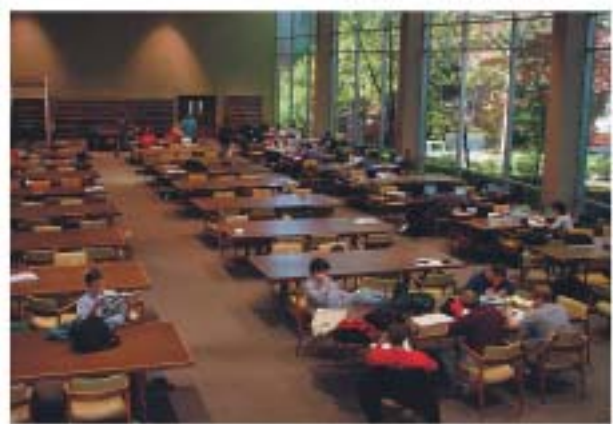


Classrooms F and J not only received new desks, chairs and high-tech teaching podiums, they were also fitted with windows. The architects needed to make holes in the school's outside wall to remove and install the rooms' new fixtures. To close the holes, the architects put in two windows in each classroom. Classroom K in Dean Rusk Hall was also remodeled to match classrooms F and J with the exception of the windows.

◀ *Classrooms F and J now have windows, new tables, chairs and power access at every seat that enables students to use their laptops to take notes and study.* ▼



▶ *The library's main reading room now sports new carpet and wall covering.*



▲ *The library's remodeled checkout area is equipped with an online catalog system (the old index cards seen in this photo at the lower right will soon be obsolete). The new security system's gates are also visible at the library's entrance on the left. Please see the editorial that accompanies this article for more information on the library's technological improvements.*

The Alexander Campbell King Law Library's main reading room received new carpet and wall covering, a reconfigured checkout area and a long-awaited security system. This coming spring, new tables fitted with lamps and power access for every seat and new chairs will be installed in addition to signage bearing the room's new name, the Carl E. Sanders Reading Room.

The Library's New Technology

The Alexander Campbell King Law Library is entering an exciting new phase of development. These are just a few of the many technological changes.

The library's online catalog, GAVEL, can now be found at <http://gavel.law.uga.edu>. The old Web address still works temporarily but will be disabled around the first of the year so be sure to bookmark the new address.

GAVEL's web interface has been redesigned to make navigation simpler and to accommodate many new features. One of the most exciting is the addition of an online circulation module. Remember filling out the paper cards from the inside back cover of most library books? The law school community now uses their UGACard to check out library materials. In addition to providing more accurate statistics and inventory information about the library's collection, this feature allows a library user to check the availability of library materials online.

The library staff has been working steadily all summer - and continues to work - on adding barcodes to all library materials. Once the majority of the library collection has been barcoded, the library will implement self-checkout. Soon, users will be able to check materials out without staff assistance (just like at many retail stores).

Another useful addition to the online catalog is electronic course reserves. Photocopied reserve readings such as law review articles and law school exams that were previously only available in paper format are now available online. Students have unlimited access to course reserve readings off campus, 24 hours per day.

Some of the other new features of GAVEL include:

- The law school community can also request an interlibrary loan from other libraries online.
- Library users can view their own account to find out what materials they have checked out.
- Gil, the UGA Main Library online catalog, can be searched from all screens within GAVEL.
- Book jacket images are displayed for new monographic materials. Try searching the title *Horace T. Ward* to see an example of a book jacket image.

Finally, one of the most innovative technologies being implemented in the law library is the radio frequency ID (RFID) security system. Currently, most security systems use magnetic strips within library materials to trigger theft alarms at the library entrance. The law library's RFID system embeds information into a radio chip attached to each library resource. When an entrance alarm sounds, staff can determine exactly which library materials are causing the alarm. Because Georgia Law is one of the last major libraries to implement a security system, it has been able to leapfrog a generation of security system technology.

In summary, GAVEL, the law library's online catalog, has a simpler web address, a new look and many new features.

-Carol Watson